

**WASHINGTON STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
SPECIAL MEETING OF
September 30, 2004**

**Conference Call
Olympia, WA**

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners: Charlotte Coker, Commission Chair; Ellis Casson; Dallas Barnes; J. Reiko Callner; and Ben Cabildo. A quorum was present.

Staff: Marc Brenman, Executive Director; Tanya Calahan, Executive Assistant to the Commissioners; and Berneta Walraven, Operations Manager.

(Audio tape one - side one)

OPENING

Commissioner Coker called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF CASE CLOSURES

The Commissioners considered the current case closures.

The Commissioners discussed the case of Sebero v. Qwest as they had not yet reviewed the withdrawal recommendation. Complainant requested a withdrawal and a right to sue notice through his attorney. Commissioner Barnes made a motion to approve the withdrawal recommendation. Commissioner Casson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

They next discussed the pre finding settlement agreement for Johansen v. The Olympian Apartments. Staff summarized the case for the Commissioners. After discussion, Commissioner Coker made a motion to approve the pre finding settlement agreement. Commissioner Casson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

The Commissioners considered several other individual cases.

(Audio tape one – side two)

Commissioner Cabildo asked about the case of Rowan v. Hitching Post Café; specifically the reference of the complainants as Caucasian even though their national origin is Indian.

Discussion then ensued about Federal Government rules regarding whether or not individuals from India and Pakistan are considered Asian or if they are considered Caucasian under those rules. There was also discussion about how national origin is defined. Marc Brenman spoke about tracing one's heritage back to a specific country.

Commissioner Cabildo asked for additional information regarding racial definitions for minorities. He also expressed that additional research should be done in the area of racial minority categories. He further commented about how Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise (OMWBE) status could be affected by racial definitions. Marc Brenman will provide additional information regarding racial categories.

Commissioner Barnes then made a motion to approve the remaining case closures. Commissioner Casson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Y. Calahan
Executive Assistant to the Commissioners